

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 CU-04 DRC-01 SY-10 OPR-02

/142 W

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R 150100Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5104
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: FIGUERES COMMENTS FURTHER ON CHILE

REF: SAN JOSE 3261

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT FIGUERES COMMENTED FURTHER ON HIS VIEW OF THE CHILEAN SITUATION IN HIS SEPTEMBER 13 PRESS CONFERENCE AND THEN AGAIN DURING AN INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 14. A LARGE PRO-ALLENDÉ STUDENT DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13 WITH ANOTHER SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, SEPTEMBER 14. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS WEEKLY THURSDAY PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT FIGUERES EXPANDED ON HIS BRIEF STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL. QUESTIONS ON CHILE APPARENTLY DOMINATED THE GIVE AND TAKE BETWEEN THE REPORTERS

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AND THE PRESIDENT. FIGUERES REPORTEDLY ALLOWED THAT

IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KNOW PRECISELY WHAT IS GOING ON IN CHILE BUT THAT HE WAS WORRIED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A CIVIL WAR BREAKING OUT. FIGUERES WAS SAID TO HAVE OFFERED ASYLUM TO ANY CHILEANS WHO COME TO COSTA RICA. HE WAS QUOTED, "WHILE JOSE FIGUERES IS PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICAN THE HOSPITALITY OF THE COUNTRY IS (OPEN) TO DEMOCRATS."

2. WITH REGARD TO RECOGNITION OF THE CHILEAN

MILITARY GOVERNMENT, FIGUERES REPORTEDLY SAID THAT COSTA RICA HAS FOR YEARS ADHERED TO THE BETANCOURT DOCTRINE AND THUS MAINTAINS RELATIONS WITH SOME GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE COME TO POWER THROUGH MILITARY COUPS WITHOUT THIS SIGNIFYING APPROVAL OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IN QUESTION TOOK POWER. IN THE CHILE CASE, HE REPORTEDLY ADDED, "...IF THE MILITARY JUNTA STABILIZES ITSELF, COSTA RICA WILL CONSIDER ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY UNINTERRUPTED."

3. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION DIRECTED AT THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS THEN OCCURRING IN SAN JOSE IN SYMPATHY FOR ALLENDE, FIGUERES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, SAID, "IT IS FINE WITH ME THAT THE STUDENTS EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON SUBJECTS LIKE THESE."

(A LATE AFTERNOON DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY LEFTIST STUDENTS MARCHED FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BUILDING IN SAN JOSE TO CENTRAL PARK WHERE SOME PRO-ALLENDE SPEECHES WERE DELIVERED. THDDMARCH OF ABOUT 2,000-2,500 STUDENTS WAS ORDERLY AND NO ARRESTS WERE MADE. THE CIVIL GUARD, AT THE REQUEST OF THE EMBASSY, HAD BEEFED UP ITS NORMAL GUARD CONTINGENT IN THE EVENT PROTEST ELEMENTS ATTEMPTED TO MOVE AGAINST OUR BUILDING. THE MORNING PRESS REPORTED THAT ANOTHER SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION WOULD BE ORGANIZED FOR SEPT. 14.)

4. SPEAKING AT NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 14,
PRESIDENT FIGUERES CHARACTERIZED DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE
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AS A "COUNTER-REVOLUTION" NOT ESSENTIALLY DISSIMILAR TO OTHER POLITICAL REACTIONS--INCLUDING HIS OWN REVOLUTION IN COSTA RICA IN 1948--TO OVERLY IDEALISTIC BUT NOT PRACTICAL ATTEMPTS AT RADICAL SOCIAL REFORM. WHILE PRAISING ALLENDE AS AN ADEALIST AND A FRIEND, FIGUERES MSERVED THAT THE FAILURE OF HIS MOVEMENT WAS INEVITE LE, GIVEN ITS LACK OF RELATION AND THAT INDEED IT WAS IRONICALLY

TRUE THAT ALLENDE MAY MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION
DEAD THAN ALIVE TO CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN
CHILE AND THE HEMISPHERE. FIGUERES PRAISED THE
CHILEAN MILITARY AS THE MOST PROFESSIONAL AND
APOLITICAL IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND EXPRESSED HIS
BELIEF THAT IT WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT REVERSE THE
PATH OF YRIAL PROGRESS IN CHILE AND HIS HOPE
THAT IT WOULD SOON RETURN THAT COUNTRY TO
DEMOCRATIC RULE.

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